

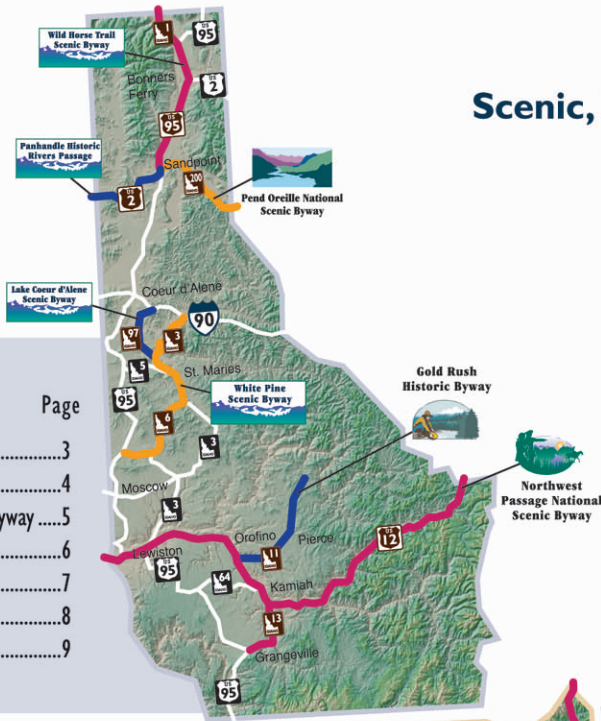
IDAHO

Scenic, Historic & Back Country Byways

Panhandle Region

Page

Gold Rush Historic Byway.....	3
Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway.....	4
Northwest Passage National Scenic Byway.....	5
Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage.....	6
Pend Oreille National Scenic Byway.....	7
White Pine Scenic Byway.....	8
Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway.....	9



East Region

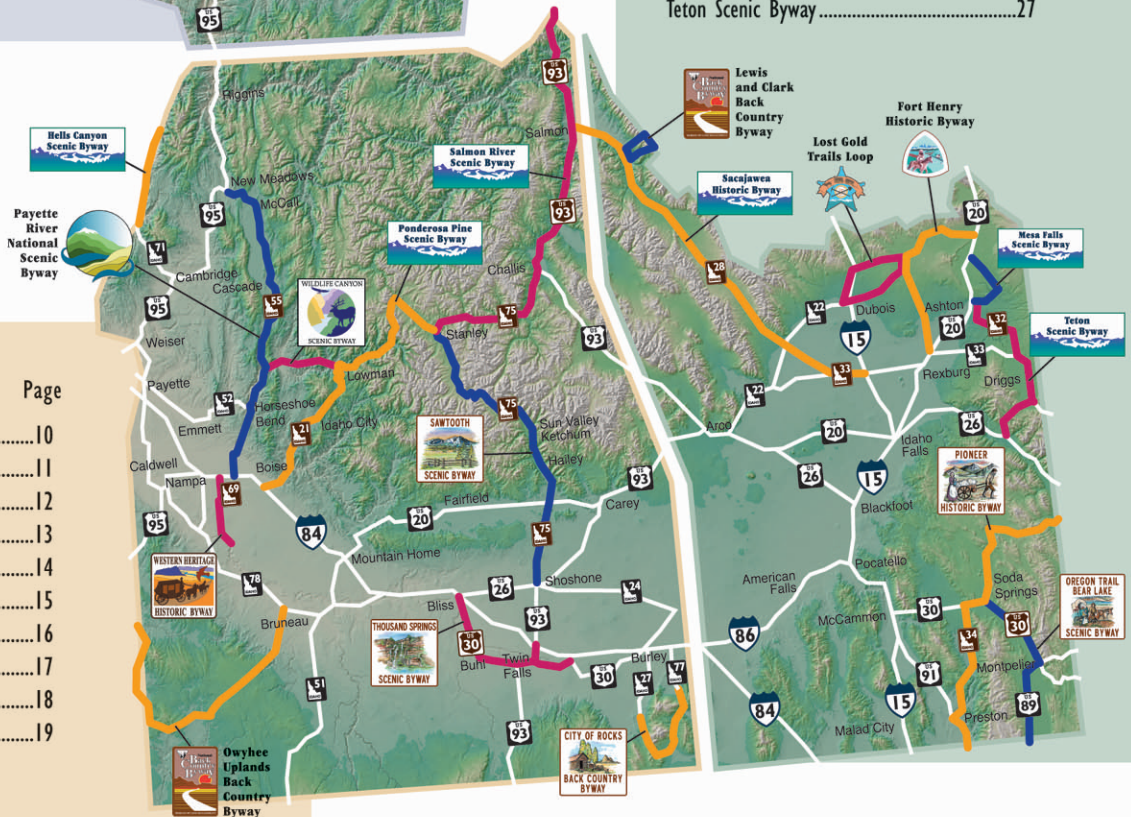
Page

Fort Henry Historic Byway.....	20
Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway.....	21
Lost Gold Trails Loop.....	22
Mesa Falls Scenic Byway.....	23
Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway.....	24
Pioneer Historic Byway.....	25
Sacajawea Historic Byway.....	26
Teton Scenic Byway.....	27

West & Central Region

Page

City of Rocks Back Country Byway.....	10
Hells Canyon Scenic Byway.....	11
Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway.....	12
Payette River National Scenic Byway.....	13
Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway.....	14
Salmon River Scenic Byway.....	15
Sawtooth Scenic Byway.....	16
Thousand Springs Scenic Byway.....	17
Western Heritage Historic Byway.....	18
Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway.....	19



Welcome to Idaho!

As you travel this great state, you'll find an abundance of natural beauty and recreational opportunities. There are more than 50,000 miles of roads weaving through Idaho's picturesque landscape. Although all of Idaho's roads reveal the state's natural beauty, some roads have gained special status as Idaho's scenic, historic and back country byways.

These byways offer facilities such as expansive turnouts, overlooks, picnic areas, walkways, and campgrounds. And best of all, they pass through some of the most breathtaking and intriguing landscapes you'll ever see. Each byway offers travelers unique landscape, climate, and wildlife. A day's drive may include wild rivers, lush forests, deserts, and clear mountain lakes.

This publication is a glovebox guide to Idaho's scenic, historic and back country byways and the natural attractions through which they pass. Each byway is referred to by name and location, with the number of miles and amount of time needed to travel it listed for your reference. A description of the byway's surface and grade, and the availability of roadside services including rest stops, campgrounds, and special attractions, also are provided. Services are listed as "full" when gas, food, and lodging are available. "Partial" services include gas and a few other facilities. Rest areas generally offer only restrooms, telephones, vending machines, and a place to relax.

For more information about Idaho's recreation opportunities, call 1-800 VISIT-ID or visit us on the web at www.visitid.org. Please remember to always buckle up and observe posted speed limits.

For information specific to Idaho's Scenic Byways Program contact Garry Young, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Scenic Byways Coordinator, at (208) 334-8214 or e-mail at gyoung@itd.state.id.us.

Brochure Credits:

Pauline Davis..... Graphic Design, ITD Division of Highways

Tom Marks Maps, ITD Division of Planning

Glenn Oakley..... Cover Photograph © IdahoStockImages.com



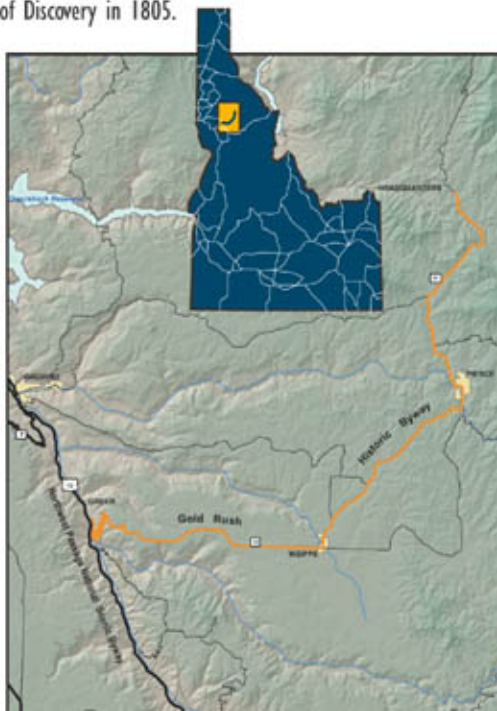
Photo by Camille Ebert

Gold Rush Historic Byway

Rich in scenery, history, and wildlife, the route along Idaho 11 begins in Greer at the junction of U.S. 12 with an easy climb up the Greer Grade, providing a breathtaking, panoramic view of the Clearwater Valley. At the crest of the mountain lie the beautiful rolling fields of grains and grasses cultivated by local farmers. Just down the road is the historic town of Weippe, not far from where members of the Nez Perce Tribe met and fed starving members of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery in 1805.

Minutes later, the scenery changes again, as the vast fields transform into a lush forest thick with wildlife. Nestled among the trees is the town of Pierce, where early pioneers discovered gold in Idaho for the first time. It also boasts the state's inaugural government building, the old Shoshone County Courthouse. Other attractions include a logging museum, the city library's artifact collection from the adventures of Chinese miners in the area, and five more historical sites featured along the byway.

Twelve miles north of Pierce is the village of Headquarters, marking the end of the Gold Rush Historic Byway and the beginning of the area's other "gold mine" — the majestic and seemingly endless Clearwater National Forest.



Gold Rush Historic Byway

Location

Begins at the junction of U.S. 12 and Idaho 11 on the Clearwater River at Greer.

Length

42.5 miles. Allow 2.5 hours round trip.

Roadway

Idaho 11 is a two-lane road with some passing lanes. It is well maintained with several turnouts for scenic viewing. It can be icy during winter months.

When to see it

Year around. Summer offers camping, fishing, riding, and hiking areas. Winter provides skiing and snowmobiling on 350 miles of groomed and open trails, maintained weekly.

Special attractions

Lewis and Clark historical sites; Weippe Discovery Center; Idaho's first county courthouse; Bradbury Logging Museum; Pierce City Library and historic downtown area; a Chinese cemetery; Bald Mountain Ski Area; and the Clearwater National Forest.

Camping

Three RV parks in Pierce, two in Weippe; campgrounds in Fraser Park and both Hollywood and Campbell's Pond. There are many camping areas in the surrounding Clearwater National Forest and the North Fork of the Clearwater River recreational area.

Services

Full services in Weippe and Pierce; partial services in Greer. Headquarters has no services.

Whom to call

Pierce-Weippe Chamber of Commerce: (800) 538-1754; City of Pierce: (208) 464-2323; www.pierceidaho.com; www.weippe.com; www.ohwy.com/id/p/pierce.htm.



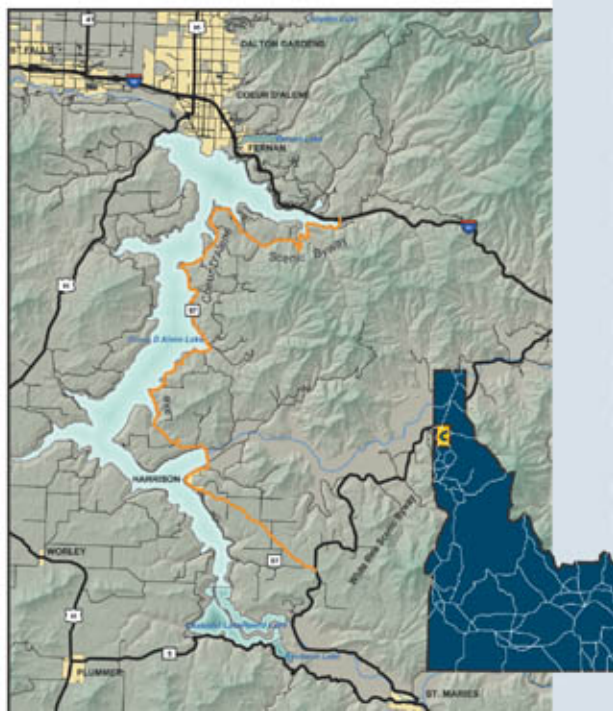
Photo by Mark Lisk © IdahoScenicImages.com

Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway

The Lake Coeur d'Alene (cōr-da-lane) Scenic Byway travels an area where the lakes, mountains, and beautiful summer weather have made it one of the most famous summer playgrounds and resort destinations in the Pacific Northwest. It's also home to a variety of wildlife, including moose, deer, elk, bear and several bird species, still roaming the pristine forests of northern Idaho.

Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 97, the route travels south along the eastern shoreline of Lake Coeur d'Alene, home to bald eagles and the largest population of nesting osprey in the Western states. Take a break and stretch your legs on the Mineral Ridge Trail, which offers panoramic views of the lake, as well as several learning stations describing the area's botany and animal life.

The route continues through gentle hills and dense forests to the charming town of Harrison. This byway ends at Idaho 3, where it meets the White Pine Scenic Byway and its southern route to the Palouse.



Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway

Location

Begins at the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 97 and follows Idaho 97 south and east along Lake Coeur d'Alene to Idaho 3.

Length

35.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

Idaho 97 is a two-lane, winding road with few passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around. Eagle watching is great in December and January between Wolf Lodge Bay and Beauty Bay.

Special attractions

Lake Coeur d'Alene; Mineral Ridge Trail at Beauty Bay; Caribou Ridge National Recreation Trail; Blackwell Island boat launch/recreation site; Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

Camping

Beauty Creek east of Beauty Bay, Bell Bay near Harrison, city of Harrison.

Services

Partial services in Carlin Bay and Squaw Bay. Full Services in Harrison and Coeur d'Alene.

Whom to call

Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce: (208) 664-3194 or (877) 782-9232, info@coeurdalene.org, www.coeurdalene.org; St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: (208) 245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; Harrison Chamber of Commerce: (208) 689-3669; www.harrisonidaho.com; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: (208) 765-7223.



Photography: Chad Case © MahaliniImage.com



Northwest Passage National Scenic Byway

Location

Begins in Lewiston on U.S. 12 and follows U.S. 12 northeast to the Idaho–Montana border; also follows Idaho 13 from Kooskia to Grangeville and the junction of U.S. 95.

Length

202 miles. Lewiston to Montana, 175.5 miles, allow 4 hours. Kooskia to Grangeville, 26.5 miles, allow 40 minutes.

Roadway

Idaho 13 and U.S. 12 above Kooskia, Idaho are winding, two lane roads with occasional passing lanes and slow vehicle turnouts. During winter months drivers may experience some snow covered roads as one nears Lolo Pass at the Montana border.

When to see it

Year around for fishing and wildlife viewing. Whitewater rafting and kayaking are popular during May, June and July.

Special attractions

U.S. 12, from Kooskia to the Montana border, parallels the largest wilderness area found in the lower contiguous 48 states. Only limited services are available for approximately 85 miles. Sites include: Canoe Camp at Orofino, Heart of the Monster site near Kamiah, Welcome Center at Kooskia, mammoth exhibit in Grangeville, Fenn & Lochsa Historic Ranger Stations, DeVoto Grove, Powell Ranger Station, and Lolo Pass Visitor Center. Other attractions include guided horseback rides and whitewater raft trips, winter play at Lolo Pass, and the Frontier Music Festival in Kooskia.

Camping

Kooskia, Lowell, Kamiah, Orofino and at numerous Forest Service camp sites such as Wild Goose, Wilderness Gateway, Jerry Johnson, Wendover, Whitehorse and Whitesands; Apgar, Pink Hole, numerous sites along Selway and Lochsa Rivers.

Services

Full services in Orofino, Kamiah and Kooskia; partial services in Spalding, Myrtle, Lenore, Syringa, Lowell and Powell.

Whom to call

Kamiah Chamber of Commerce: (208) 935-2290; Kooskia Chamber of Commerce: (208) 926-4362; Lewiston Chamber of Commerce: (208) 743-3531; Grangeville Chamber of Commerce: (208) 983-0460; Clearwater National Forest: (208) 476-4541; Lochsa Ranger District: (208) 926-4274; Dworshak State Park: (208) 476-5994; Nez Perce National Forest: (208) 983-1950; Orofino Chamber of Commerce: (208) 476-4335; and the Nez Perce National Historical Park: (208) 843-2261; North Central Idaho Travel Association: (800) 473-3543, www.northcentralidaho.info.

Northwest Passage National Scenic Byway

In 1803, President Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to find the Northwest Passage — the link between the Missouri River and the Columbia River through the unexplored Rocky Mountains. This 202-mile byway, stretching across the base of Idaho's panhandle, traces the steps of that exploration.

From the west, this beautiful route begins at the Washington state line on U.S. 12 and traverses the winding Clearwater River Canyon, passing through the Nez Perce National Historical Park areas of Spalding and Kamiah and the towns of Lenore, Orofino, and Kooskia. Kamiah is the home of the Heart of the Monster, a legendary site of the Nez Perce people.

At Kooskia, the byway splits, with one route continuing south to the Camas Prairie and the town of Grangeville, while another heads east on U.S. 12 along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River and the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River, through a vast wilderness area toward the Montana border and the Lolo Pass Visitor Center.

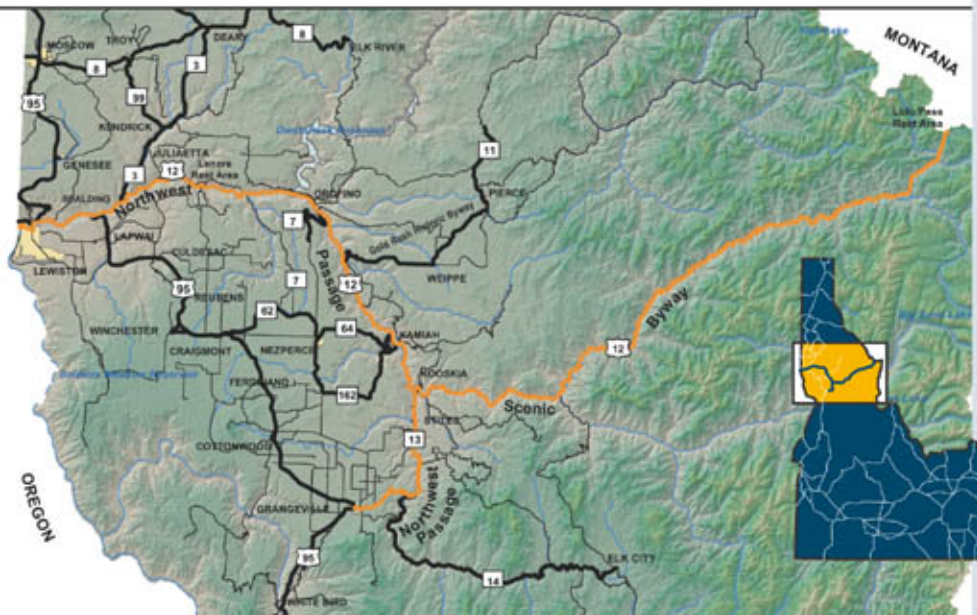


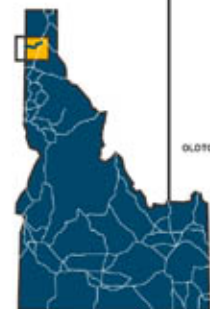


Photo by Jay Krajic © IdahoStockImages.com

Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage

The Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage begins at the Washington state line and follows the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River through Oldtown, Priest River, and ends in Sandpoint. This byway is the southern leg of the International Selkirk Loop which extends into Washington on the west and heads into British Columbia on the Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway from Sandpoint on the east.

Enjoy driving along miles of soothing river scenery that reflects the pastoral beauty of surrounding forests and farms. Pull over and be entertained by varying seasonal wildlife, birds of prey, and waterfowl; or stop and absorb the history of northern Idaho in three different museums along the byway. This history extends back to the ice age and the Great Missoula Floods. Convenient access to the Pend Oreille River at four recreation areas provides opportunities to swim or boat along spacious, gently-flowing waters. Winter recreation includes snow sports on state and federal lands, ice fishing when it is cold enough, and downhill skiing at Schweitzer.



Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage

Location

Begins at the Washington state line and follows U.S. 2 to Sandpoint.

Length

28.5 miles. Allow 40 minutes.

Roadway

U.S. 2 is a two-lane road with no passing lanes. It can be icy during winter months.

When to see it

Year around. Eagles in the winter, osprey in the summer, waterfowl in the spring and fall. Nature's palette of vegetation colors are particularly abundant in spring and fall.

Special attractions

Pend Oreille and Priest River; Kaniksu National Forest; Priest River Wildlife Area; Albeni Falls Dam Visitor Center; three historical museums; and Priest River's historic downtown.

Camping

"Mudhole" Recreation Area at Priest River and Riley Creek Recreation Area eight miles further west at Laclede; numerous other camping sites within area including beautiful Priest Lake.

Services

Full services in Priest River and Sandpoint; partial services in Oldtown.

Whom to call

Priest River Chamber of Commerce: (208) 448-2721, fax: (208) 448-2721, prchamber@povm.com, www.priestriver.org; Sandpoint Visitors Center: (800) 800-2106; Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: (208) 263-0887, fax: (208) 265-5289, chamber@sandpoint.net, www.destinationsandpoint.com; Albeni Falls Visitors Center: (208) 437-3133.



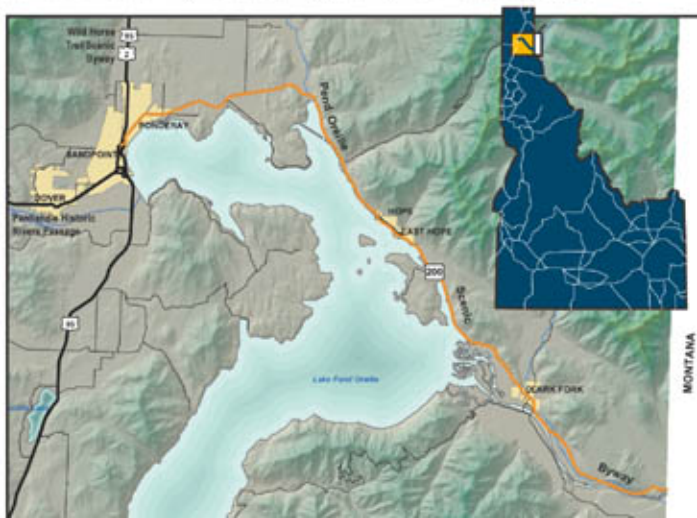
Photo by Leland Howard © iStockphoto.com

Pend Oreille National Scenic Byway

The Pend Oreille (pon-der-ay) Scenic Byway offers travelers some of Idaho's most spectacular water views. Beginning at the intersection with U.S. 95, Idaho 200 meanders eastward to the Montana state line across farmlands, through river deltas, and along the rocky northern shores of Lake Pend Oreille, all sculpted by the massive force of glaciers and the floodwaters of Glacial Lake Missoula. Pullouts along the byway allow visitors to stop and enjoy breathtaking vistas of mountainous horizons framing miles of open water.

Four-season recreational opportunities begin along the shores of the lake and reach across the vast regions of national forest overlooking the Pend Oreille Scenic Byway. Whether you are inclined to swim or fish, boat or golf, hunt or hike mountain trails, alpine ski or snowmobile, water ski or bird watch — each of our distinctive four seasons offers an outstanding recreational opportunity for almost every person who enjoys the outdoors.

Visitors can find varying accommodations from unimproved mountain campsites to maintained shoreline campgrounds to recreational vehicles parks along the water or choose from lakefront resorts or motels.



Pend Oreille National Scenic Byway

Location

Begins at U.S. 95 north of Sandpoint and follows Idaho 200 to the Montana state line.

Length

33.4 miles. Allow 1.5 hours to enjoy the scenery and interpretive information.

Roadway

Idaho 200 is a two-lane road with no passing lanes, but numerous scenic turnouts. Winter driving conditions require drivers to pay attention.

When to see it

Year around. Winter scenes can be magnificent, spring and fall colors are dramatic.

Special attractions

Lake Pend Oreille; Clark Fork River and delta; roadside interpretive exhibits; Schweitzer Ski Area; Panhandle National Forests' seasonal trails and roads; and four seasons of recreational opportunities.

Camping

Samowen Campground on the lake, maintained and primitive spots in the Kaniksu National Forest, and numerous private spots in the area.

Services

Full services in Clark Fork, Ponderay, and Sandpoint; partial services in Hope.

Whom to call

Hope-Clark Fork Chamber of Commerce: (208) 266-1552, www.pobyway.org, hopechamber@verizon.net;
Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: (800) 800-2106;
Sandpoint Ranger District: (208) 263-5111.



Photo by Bill Mullins © IdahoStockImages.com



Location

From the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 3, south on Idaho 3 to Idaho 6, then southwest to U.S. 95 at Potlatch.

Length

82.8 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway

Idaho 3 and Idaho 6 are both two-lane roads with no passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Old Mission State Park; Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area; St. Joe National Forest; Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area ("Park and Ski" cross country area); Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes; Potlatch historic walking tours; Mullan Trail Park, Steam Donkey, 1910 Fire Memorial and historical murals in St. Maries.

Camping

Laird Park, Giant White Pine Park north of Harvard, Pines RV and Camping in Harvard; Scenic 6 RV Park in Potlatch; Heyburn State Park, Benewah County Fairgrounds, Shady River RV Park in or near St. Maries.

Services

Full services in St. Maries; partial services in Potlatch.

Whom to call

St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: (208) 245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: (208) 245-2531; Old Mission State Park: (208) 682-3814; Potlatch City Hall: (208) 875-0708, potlatchidaho.org; Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce: (208) 664-3194 or (877) 782-9232, info@coeurdalene.org, www.coeurdalene.org.

White Pine Scenic Byway

The White Pine Scenic Byway begins on Idaho 3 at Interstate 90 near Cataldo, home to Old Mission of the Sacred Heart. Built in the mid-1800's, the mission itself is the oldest building still standing in Idaho; travelers can also visit the nearby Parish House and two historic cemeteries on the grounds, and enjoy the visitor center, walking trails, and picnic areas.

From Cataldo, the White Pine Scenic Byway passes through the lush forests of Idaho's timber country and the numerous lakes and marshlands of the lower Coeur d'Alene River to the town of St. Maries, the Hughes House Museum, and other attractions. The byway then crosses the picturesque St. Maries and St. Joe rivers, the latter of which is the highest navigable river in the world.

The route continues on Idaho 6, meandering south through the town of Emida, and the St. Joe National Forest which boasts the largest stand of White Pine in the country. The byway winds through rolling hills of the Palouse region to the historic town of Potlatch, once site of the largest white pine lumber mill in the world.

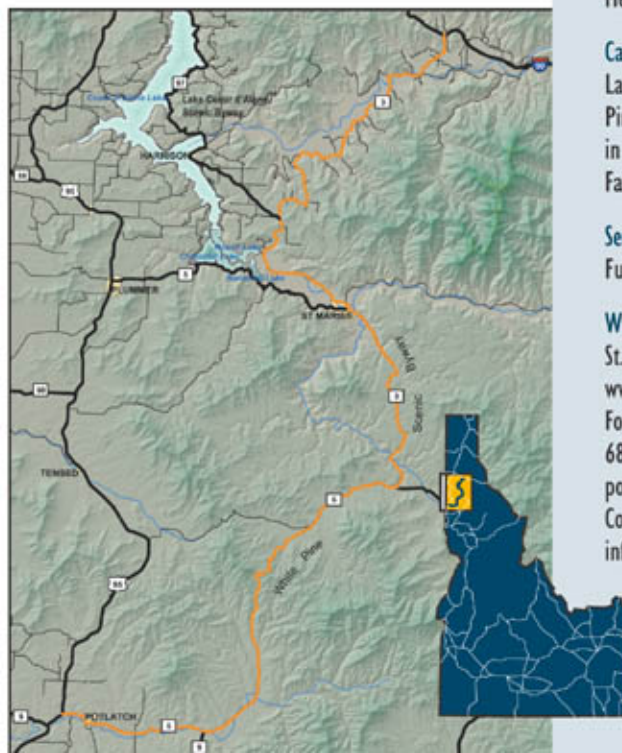




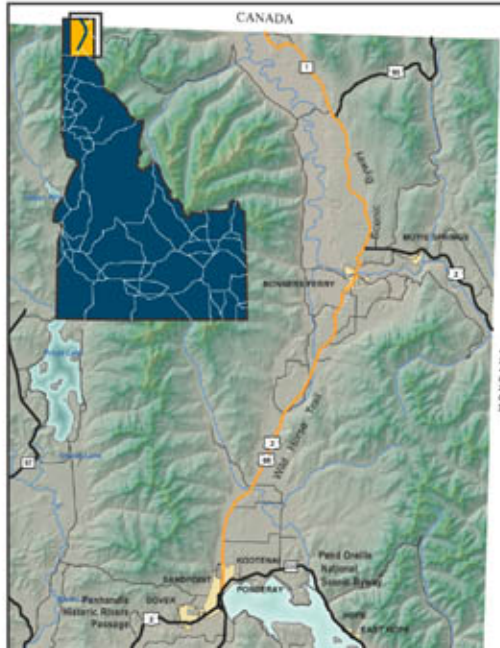
Photo by Aaron Drew

Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway

The Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway, part of the International Selkirk Loop, starts on the northwestern shores of Lake Pend Oreille in the resort community of Sandpoint. Heading north along the eastern side of the Selkirk Mountains the roadway follows the Kootenai Tribe's historic path to fishing grounds at Lake Pend Oreille. In 1808 the first white explorer David Thompson also utilized this trail. The "Wild Horse Trail" became more than a path in 1863 when gold was discovered in "Wild Horse Creek," 120 miles to the north of Bonners Ferry Idaho in British Columbia. There was a large movement of men and pack animals along the "Wild Horse Trail" until the gold rush ceased circa 1880. Upon arrival of the Northern Pacific railroad to this region, David Thompson's old route became a main freight line for the railroad.

Just south of Bonners Ferry a stunning wide glacial valley comes into view. The rich soil deposits left behind as the glaciers receded formed fertile lands which even today support a wide variety of agriculture throughout the Kootenai Valley.

In 1864 Edwin Bonner created a ferry crossing the Kootenai River to accommodate gold seekers as they made their way north; leading to the formal establishment of Bonners Ferry in 1893. Historic buildings in the downtown district remain today, reminding visitors of bygone eras.



Location

Begins on U.S. 95 in downtown Sandpoint and follows it north through Bonners Ferry to the junction of U.S. 95 and Idaho 1, then proceeds north on Idaho 1 to the Canadian Border at Porthill.

Length

48.2 miles from Sandpoint to junction of U.S. 95/Idaho 1, 11 miles to the International Border at Porthill. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

U.S. 95 is predominantly a 2-lane road with 4 lanes starting 2 miles north of Sandpoint for 5 miles. There is a half-mile passing lane north of McArthur Lake traveling north, a 1-mile passing lane northbound south of Bonners Ferry, a 2-mile southbound passing lane south of Bonners Ferry, and a 4-lane bypass at Bonners Ferry which continues north for 3 miles.

When to see it

Year around. Activities and events available every month. Fall colors especially dramatic.

Special attractions

Lake Pend Oreille; Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge; Idaho Panhandle National Forest; McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor; and Historic Kootenai River.

Camping

Privately owned campgrounds in and around Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry. USFS camping at Smith Lake, 5 miles north of Bonners Ferry, seven sites, no fee.

Services

Full services in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry.

Whom to call

Sandpoint Visitor Center: (800) 800-2106; Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: (208) 263-0887 www.sandpointchamber.org; Greater Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce: (208) 267-5922 www.bonnersferrychamber.com; International Selkirk Loop: (888) 823-2626 for free 48-page regional Scenic Drive Travel Guide www.selkirkloop.org; Sandpoint Ranger District: (208) 263-5111; Bonners Ferry Ranger District: (208) 267-5561; U.S. Customs at Porthill: (208) 267-5309; Idaho Department of Lands: (208) 267-5577 or (208) 263-5104.



Photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

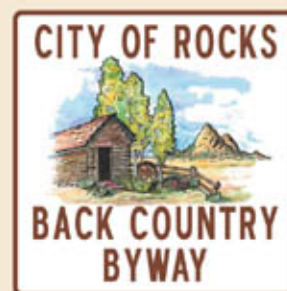
City of Rocks Back Country Byway

Forming a 49-mile necklace around the Albion Mountain Range, the City of Rocks Back Country Byway traces a rural landscape steeped in history and geological significance.

Beginning in Albion on Idaho 77, the byway traverses the outskirts of the Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland Recreation Area as it heads south.

At the base of the byway's necklace lies its jewel, the City of Rocks National Reserve, where more than 700 challenging climbs rival Yosemite National Park and make it a favorite spot among technical rock climbers worldwide. These granite outcroppings — some more than 2.5 billion years old — soar above alpine-like meadows and juniper tree stands, offering a variety of recreational opportunities; a visitor center traces the formation of the Reserve and its geological history.

Heading north, the last leg of the byway ends in historic Oakley; the entire town, in fact, is on the National Register of Historic Places and features the state's largest concentration of old stone and wood-framed buildings.



Location

The route begins along Idaho 77 at Albion south to the Connor Creek Junction, and continues south through Elba and Almo and the scenic City of Rocks National Reserve. From the Reserve, the route follows Birch Creek to the City of Oakley and the Oakley Historic District where it joins Idaho 27.

Length

49 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

Paved secondary highway from Albion to Connor Creek Junction. Connor Creek to Almo is a narrow winding paved road, and from Almo to Oakley the road is graveled until it joins Idaho 27 at Oakley.

When to see it

Best weather to travel is April to November. Call (208) 824-5519 for road conditions.

Special attractions

The beautiful Albion Valley, including Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland Recreation Area; Castle Rocks State Park; City of Rocks National Reserve; Oakley Historic District.

Camping

Howell Canyon and City of Rocks with R.V. parks in Oakley, and at the I-84 Interchange at the Snake River.

Services

Full services in Burley; food and lodging in Albion; partial services in Oakley and Almo.

Whom to call

City of Rocks National Reserve: (208) 824-5519; Sawtooth National Forest: (208) 678-0430; Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce: (208) 679-4793, mcidcham@cyberhighway.net and ciro_ranger_activities@nps.gov, www.minicassiachamber.org; www.rideidaho.com; or www.nps.gov/ciro.



Photo by Steve Bly © iStockphoto.com

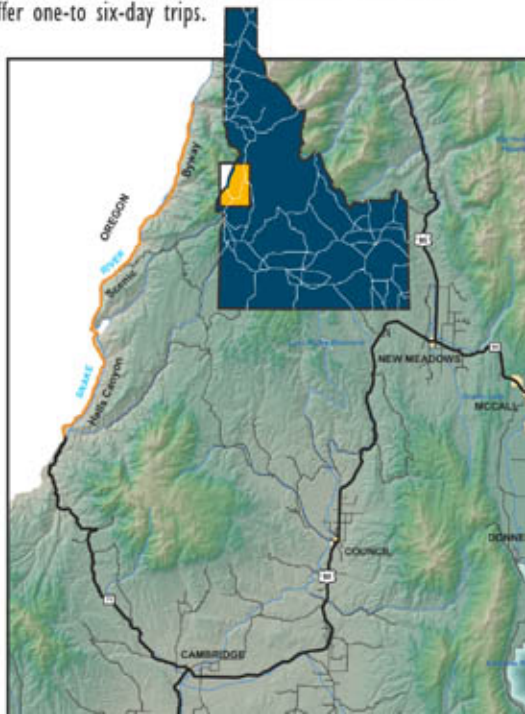
Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway winds its way along the east side of this massive rift that separates Idaho from neighboring Oregon. While the view from the road is breathtaking, a guided float trip or jet boat tour of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area is a must. Towering cliffs of black and green basalt hang so high above the Snake River and its sandy beaches that boaters strain their necks to see these places. Outfitters offer one-to six-day trips.

During the summer months, visit the Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center just below Hells Canyon Dam, the entrance to the wild and scenic part of the Snake River.

The surrounding area was the home of Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians. Other tribes, including the Shoshone, Bannock, North Paiute and Cayuse Indians, were frequent visitors to the area. These tribes were drawn to the region by relatively mild winters, lush foliage and plentiful wildlife.

Today, walls of the canyon are like a museum, where pictographs and petroglyphs display evidence of the Indians' early settlements.



Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

Location

Hells Canyon Road from Oxbow Bridge near Copperfield, Oregon, north along the Idaho side of the Snake River to Hells Canyon Dam.

Length

22 miles. Allow 3 hours round trip from Cambridge.

Roadway

Hells Canyon Road is a narrow, winding road with several steep grades. It is maintained all year.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; guided float and jet boat trips on the Snake River; guided tours of Hells Canyon Dam; Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center.

Camping

Copperfield Park, Hells Canyon Park, Big Bar.

Services

Partial services 2.5 miles west of Copperfield. Full services in Cambridge.

Whom to call

Payette National Forest: (208) 549-4200; Idaho Power Company: (800) 422-3143; Hells Canyon National Recreation Area: (208) 628-3916, www.tcfn.org/tctour/parks/HellsCanyon; Hells Canyon Creek Visitor Center: (541) 785-3395.



Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway

Location

The loop begins 80 miles southwest of Boise. It can be reached from the west through Jordan Valley, Oregon, and from the east, on Idaho 78 near Grand View, Idaho.

Length

101 miles. From Boise, it is an all-day trip.

Roadway

Mostly one and one-half lanes of graveled road.

When to see it

The byway is usually impassable from late November through March because of snow. Also, precipitation can make the road treacherously slick. The best times of year to drive the byway are early summer and fall.

Special attractions

Photographers can't resist shooting from an overlook point above the North Fork gorge. The mahogany woodlands offer sweeping views, with the Owyhee Mountains as a backdrop.

Camping

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has one primitive campground, the North Fork Recreation Site, about 30 miles east of Jordan Valley.

Services

Limited services in Jordan Valley, Grand View and Bruneau; no services along the byway.

Whom to call

Lower Snake River District, Bureau of Land Management:
(208) 384-3300.

Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway

Starting through hay meadows, rolling hills and the winding course of Jordan Creek, you'll soon climb into the mountains and gnarled stands of juniper woodlands. Numerous mountain ranges frame the picturesque desert, with Idaho's Owyhees rising to the north. From expanses of sagebrush and wildflowers, to rough, rock-walled rivers and streams, the Owyhee Uplands represent what many people believe the real West is all about.





Photo by Jay Krajic © IdahoStockImages.com

Payette River National Scenic Byway



Location

From the junction of U.S. 95 at New Meadows along Idaho 55 south to Idaho 44 west of Boise.

Length

111.7 miles. Allow 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Roadway

Narrow, winding, two-lane road with occasional passing lanes and slow vehicle turnouts.

When to see it

Year around. The McCall Winter Carnival takes place in late January or early February.

Special attractions

Guided float trips on the Payette River; Cascade Reservoir; snowmobiling and cross-country skiing at Smiths Ferry; Ponderosa State Park on Payette Lake; Brundage Mountain Ski Area; Boise and Payette National Forests.

Camping

Ponderosa State Park, Cascade Reservoir, several campsites north of Banks area and north of McCall area.

Services

Full services in Boise, Cascade, McCall; partial services in Horseshoe Bend, Donnelly, New Meadows.

Whom to call

Boise National Forest: (208) 373-4007; Payette National Forest: (208) 634-0700, www.mccall.net/pnf/; McCall Visitors Bureau: (208) 634-7631; Ponderosa State Park: (208) 634-2164. For more byway information go to: PRSB@sageidaho.com

Payette River National Scenic Byway

From the junction of Idaho 44 and Idaho 55 west of Idaho's capital city of Boise, this byway heads north on Idaho 55 to Horseshoe Bend where it meets the Payette River. From there, it passes through the Boise and Payette National Forests and the popular resort towns of Cascade and McCall before reaching the northern end of the byway at New Meadows.

For motorists, it can be a distracting drive as the river crashes and tumbles its way over the rocks through this narrow river valley. Depending on where you are on the river, it can be a mild ripple or a wild torrent. There are occasional pull-offs where you can view the wilder parts and treat your senses to the sight, sound, smell, and rhythm of Idaho's famous whitewater.

Along this byway are some great locations for camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and guided float trips. Outfitters offer river excursions that range from half-day to three-day outings in rafts or kayaks.

The mountain resort town of McCall sits next to Payette Lake and is a great year-round getaway. It is particularly famous for the annual Winter Carnival, when the streets are lined with ice sculptures.

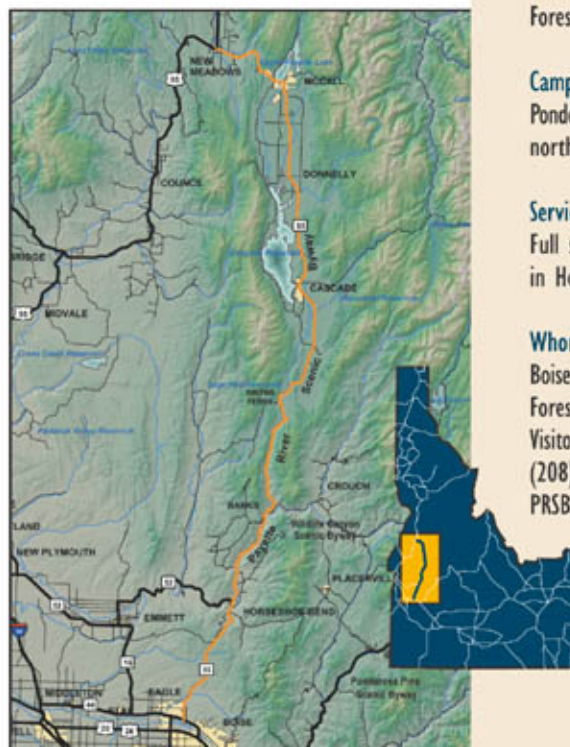




Photo by Steve Bly © iStockphoto.com

Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway

Location

From Boise on Idaho 21 northeast to the junction of Idaho 75 at Stanley.

Length

130.9 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway

A narrow, winding road with some steep grades. Two lanes with some passing lanes. There usually is a snow floor north of Lowman during winter. Severe avalanche conditions exist in the Banner Summit area and road closures can be frequent. Check conditions before traveling in winter!

When to see it

Year around. May be closed in winter.

Special attractions

Lucky Peak and Arrow Rock Reservoirs; Lucky Peak State Park; Idaho City; Sawtooth Wilderness; Granite Creek Interpretive Trail; Lowman Fire Interpretive Signs; Kirkham Hot Springs; Stanley Lake; Boise, Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; Forest Service/BLM Visitor Information Center in Boise, and the Idaho City, Lowman, and Stanley Ranger Stations.

Camping

There are five campgrounds between the Idaho City area and Crooked River Road turn off (Milepost 57); four campgrounds between Lowman and the Grandjean turn off (Milepost 94); and five campgrounds between Banner Summit (Milepost 105) and Stanley.

Services

Full services in Boise, Idaho City, Lowman and Stanley.

Whom to call

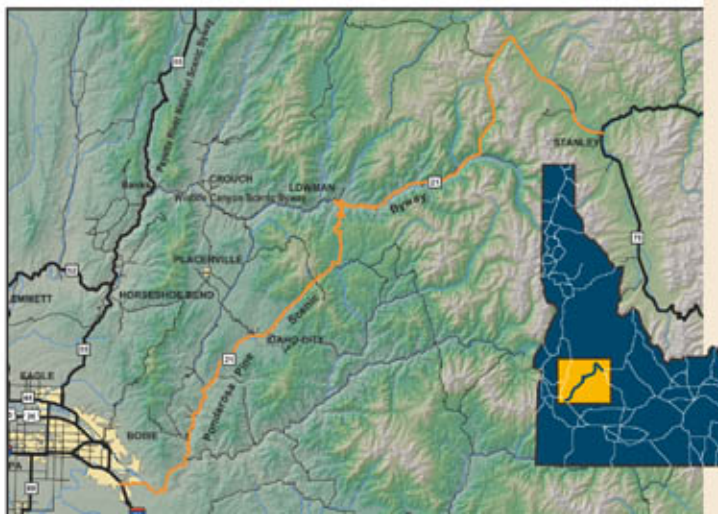
Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Boise National Forest: (208) 373-4007; www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise; info@bnf.org; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Sawtooth NRA: (208) 727-5013; audio tape tours available from Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation: (208) 334-4199.

Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway

The Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway starts in Boise. It follows Idaho 21 north to the historic mining town of Idaho City, where you can still pan for gold in a nearby stream bed. Campgrounds and fishing opportunities dot the route from Idaho City to Lowman along the South Fork of the Payette River, as you slowly climb along the byway's northeasterly route.

At the cutoff road to Grandjean, the roadway leaves the Payette River and squeezes between two of Idaho's wilderness areas. On the right, the Sawtooth Wilderness and its 217,000 pristine acres of coniferous forest lands and wilderness lakes. To the left, the Salmon-Challis National Forest, entryway to the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, with more contiguous acres of roadless wilderness than anywhere else in the lower 48 states.

From Banner Summit, one of Idaho's highest at 7,056 feet, you begin a descent into the town of Stanley. As the roadway grooves through the steep foothills and thick forest, you can catch glimpses of the Sawtooth Mountains ahead; finally, as you drop into Stanley, they come into full, magnificent view.





Salmon River Scenic Byway

Location

From the Montana state line south on U.S. 93 to Challis, then west to Stanley on Idaho 75.

Length

161.7 miles. Allow 3.5 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane road with no passing lanes and some 25-mph curves.

When to see it

Best weather for travel is April to November, although access to the back country is best from July to October.

Special attractions

Sacajawea Interpretive Center; Salmon spawning beds at Indian Riffles; Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center; Tower Rock; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) National Historic Trail; Salmon Wild & Scenic River; Middle Fork Salmon Wild & Scenic River; Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness; Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; natural hot springs and ghost towns.

Camping

Salmon River, Riverside, Mormon Bend, Basin Creek, Upper and Lower O'Brien, Holman Creek, East Fork, Bayhorse, Spring Gulch, Cottonwood, Shoup Bridge, Tower Rock, Twin Creek.

Services

Full services in Stanley, Challis, Salmon, North Fork; partial services in Clayton, Gibbonsville.

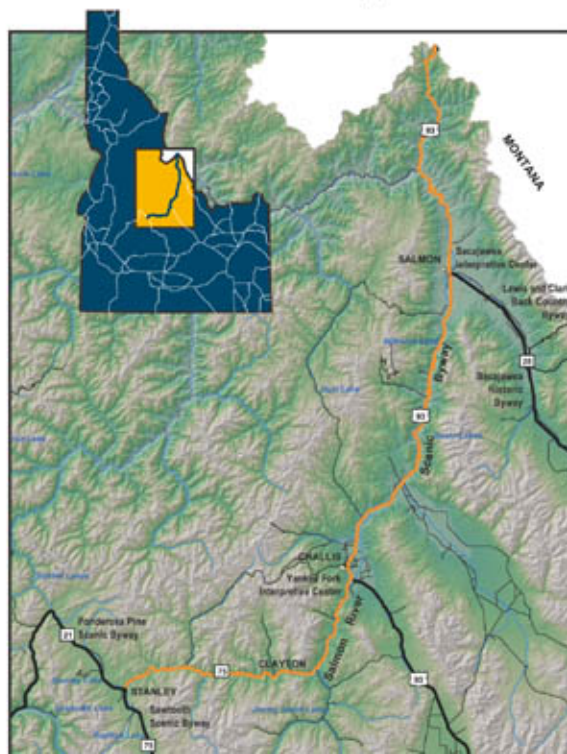
Whom to call

Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (800) 727-2540, svcc@centurytel.net, www.salmonbyway.com; Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Sawtooth National Recreation Area: (208) 727-5013; Salmon-Challis National Forests: (208) 756-5100; www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc; Yankee Fork Ranger District: (208) 838-3300; Challis Ranger District: (208) 879-4100; North Fork Ranger District: (208) 865-2700; Salmon District Bureau of Land Management: (208) 756-5400; Audio tape tours available for Stanley to Challis & Challis to Salmon.

Salmon River Scenic Byway

The northern end of the Salmon River Scenic Byway begins on the Montana border at the Lost Trail Pass (elevation 6,995 feet). Lewis and Clark came this way in 1805, and the spectacular view from this vantage point has changed little since that famous exploration of the West two centuries ago. The route follows the Salmon River — also called the River of No Return — through the Salmon-Challis National Forest through the historic city of Salmon. The river and its forks serve as important natural pathways into Idaho's rugged back country. The deer, elk, and moose that often graze along the hills and meadows that line this road provide a glimpse of the wild country beyond.

Along the way, the town of Challis and the Land of the Yankee Fork Historic Area are just two points of interest, the latter being among Idaho's most famous mining areas. And as you head southwest along Idaho 75 toward Stanley, you'll begin to see glimpses of the majestic Sawtooth Mountains ahead before beholding their full splendor as you drop into town.



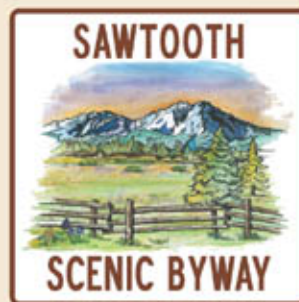


Sawtooth Scenic Byway

The Sawtooth Scenic Byway has the distinction of being the 100th National Forest Scenic Byway. Beginning in Shoshone, the southern leg of the byway features the new Black Magic Canyon geological attraction. The route then rolls north through fertile agricultural land to the resort towns of Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley.

From there, the road carves its way through the Boulder Mountains to Galena Pass, showcasing the ridge of the Sawtooth Mountains. Beyond, the rocks and woodlands of the rugged Sawtooth National Recreation Area are packed with rivers, streams, and 300 alpine lakes, providing top-notch venues for a variety of year-round activities. Wildlife watchers should stay alert; the 756,000-acre recreational area is home to many species of wildlife, including pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, bear and wolves.

The northern tip of the byway terminates in Stanley, where the Sawtooth meets the Ponderosa Pine and Salmon River Scenic Byways. So no matter which way you drive in or out, you're in for a treat.



Location

Idaho 75 north to Stanley from Shoshone.

Length

115.7 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane road with some passing lanes. The 15-mile section over Galena Summit is winding with 5 to 6 percent grades. Winter weather can be severe. Check conditions before traveling.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Sawtooth National Recreation Area; Redfish Lake; world-famous Sun Valley resort.

Camping

Wood River, Easley Hot Springs, Alturas Lake and Redfish Lake.

Services

Full services in Shoshone, Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley, Stanley; partial services in Obsidian; rest area on U.S. 20 at the junction with Idaho 75.

Whom to call

Sawtooth NRA Headquarters: (208) 727-5013, audio tape tour available for Stanley to Ketchum route; Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber of Commerce: (800) 634-3347, www.visitsunvalley.com; Sawtooth National Forest: (208) 737-3200, www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Redfish Lake Visitor Center (summer only): (208) 774-3376.



Photo by Kirk Anderson © IdahoStockImages.com



Thousand Springs Scenic Byway

From the Snake River Plain Aquifer, an abundance of natural springs gush from the steep canyon walls and cascade into the river below. In fact, the aquifer creeps through an area of several thousand square miles under southern Idaho's porous volcanic rock before emerging from the springs in the cliffs of the Snake River Canyon.

This pure, clean, oxygenated water maintains a constant temperature of 58 degrees F., ideal conditions for trout. The hatcheries located along the 30-mile stretch of the Snake River in the Hagerman Valley raise about 70 percent of the trout produced in the United States.

Today, hydroelectric and irrigation projects divert some of the water. So while you won't see literally a "thousand springs" along the route, it is nevertheless an impressive sight.

In Twin Falls guided boat tours are available that take visitors to see Shoshone Falls, passengers get close enough to feel the spray on their faces. At 212 feet, it is 52 feet higher than Niagara Falls.

Boat tours and dinner cruises available in the Hagerman area allow visitors to get up-close-and-personal with some of the Thousand Springs along a beautiful stretch of the Snake River.



Location

Begins at Interstate 84 near Bliss and follows U.S. 30 southeast through Twin Falls to Idaho 50, then north on Idaho 50 to I-84. Also U.S. 93 from Twin Falls north to I-84.

Length

67.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

U.S. 30 and Idaho 50 are two-lane roads with some passing lanes.

When to see it

Year around. The Hagerman Valley is known for its very mild winters. The best time to see Shoshone Falls and Twin Falls is in early spring.

Special attractions

Malad Gorge; Billingsley Creek; Box Canyon, Niagara Springs & Crystal Springs Lake State Parks; Hagerman Valley; Snake River; Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument; Thousand Springs; National & State Fish Hatcheries & Wildlife Management Areas; Hot Springs, Museums; Fish, Waterfowl & Bird viewing; Herrett Planetarium; Shoshone Falls & Twin Falls.

Camping

Many private campgrounds along entire route.

Services

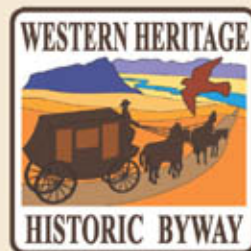
Full services in Bliss, Hagerman, Buhl, Kimberly, Twin Falls; partial services in Filer; rest areas south of Hagerman and at the junction of U.S. 93 and I-84.

Whom to call

Buhl Chamber of Commerce: (208) 543-6682, www.buhlidaho.us; Fossil Beds National Monument: (208) 837-4793, www.nps.gov/hafo/home.htm; Hagerman Chamber of Commerce: (208) 837-9131, www.hagermanchamber.com; Thousand Springs Park District: (208) 837-4505, www.idahoparks.org; Twin Falls County Parks and Recreation: (208) 734-9491, www.twinfallscounty.org; South Central Idaho Tourism & Recreation Development Association: (800) 255-8946, www.visitsouthidaho.com



Photo by Glenn Oakley © IdahoStockImages.com



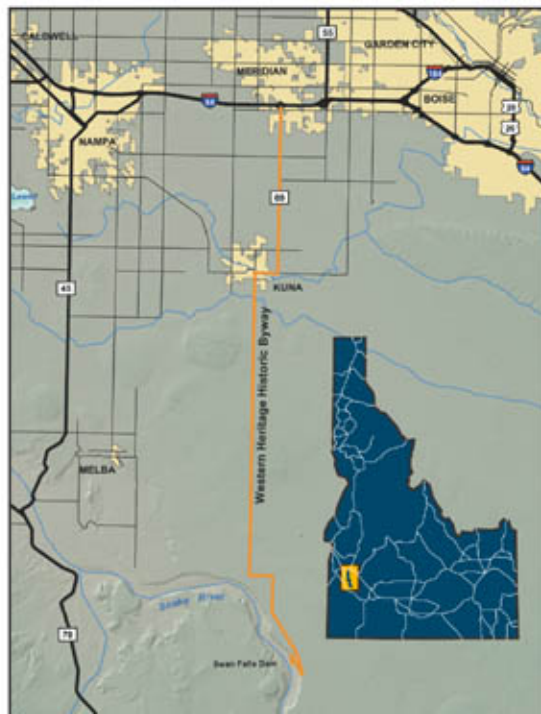
Western Heritage Historic Byway

When President Lincoln turned his attention from the Civil War to proclaim Idaho a U.S. Territory, migration south from Fort Boise had already begun. Huge silver and gold discoveries had been made in the Owyhees. Emigrants trudged trails south and twenty-horse teams moved mine machinery over rattlesnake-infested volcanic rifts and down the steep sides of the Snake River Canyon.

Today, where trails once existed, a broad new highway passes through farmlands to Indian Creek and the town of Kuna. This historic place was first an Indian crossing—then a traveler's way-station—then the Shortline railhead, and finally, the growing farm community it is today.

Here, the byway turns south down Swan Falls Road. Just a few miles past Kuna, the scene moves abruptly from gold and green fields stitched together by silver irrigation canals, to rugged terrain unchanged since wild horse herds roamed and the great herds of jack rabbits made settlers lives miserable.

Now, thousands of folks visit the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Initial Point, Snake River Canyon, Dedication Point, and Swan Falls Dam each year.



Location

From Meridian, Idaho Highway 69 begins on the southbound road from exit 44 of I-84 and runs for 8 miles to East Avalon Avenue in Kuna. Turn south on Swan Falls Road and continue for 21 miles through the National Conservation Area (NCA) Birds of Prey to Swan Falls Dam.

Length

30 miles. Allow 1 hour for travel.

Roadway

Idaho 69 is a new 5-lane roadway to Kuna. Swan Falls Road is a 2-lane highway to the Swan Falls Dam. The final mile is a steep grade from the Snake River canyon rim to the dam site. Ice patches occur infrequently during winter weather.

When to see it

Year around. Birds of prey migrate in and are active March to late June.

Special Attractions

The Silver Trail crossed Kuna's Indian Creek at the south end of Orchard Street. Nearby was the Stage Stop where passengers relaxed while tired horses were exchanged for fresh teams. Just up the hill from the creek, near Stage Coach Road, is the Pioneer Cemetery. Initial Point is 8.5 miles south on Swan Falls Road. This volcanic cinder hill is the point of origin for all Idaho surveys. Dedication Point is 16 miles south on Swan Falls Road. The vista from the canyon rim is breathtaking and worth the quarter mile trek from the parking lot. Binoculars are a good idea. Twenty-one miles south on Swan Falls Road is Swan Falls Dam. Idaho Power maintains a museum at the dam and a great park for day-only recreation activities. Another stop is the Kuna Visitor Center.

Camping

Camping is permitted downstream of Swan Falls Dam. Fishermen catch and release the mighty White Sturgeon. Channel Cat, Trout and Small Mouth Bass are plentiful as well.

Services

Full services in Kuna and Meridian. Kuna has a large grocery store and a variety of restaurants. Gasoline, full service mechanics and an auto parts store are also available.

Whom to call

Kuna Future: (208) 922-5158 or on the web at www.kunafuture.com. Kuna City Hall: (208) 922-5546; Kuna Chamber of Commerce: (208) 922-9254



Photo by Glenn Oakley © iStockphoto.com

Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway

Herds of elk numbering near one hundred are not an unusual sight along the Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway, especially near the Danskin river access. Along with elk are mule deer, whitetail deer, chukars, wild turkeys, eagles, ospreys, cougars, bears, and wolves. Several campgrounds along the byway have natural hot springs for visitors to enjoy, as well as several trails for hiking and biking. Fishing and rafting are also enjoyable activities afforded along the route. In winter months, summer hiking trails provide miles of snowmobile and skiing adventure. You will also find motels, bed and breakfasts, a musical theatre, and even a golf course.

Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway joins two other scenic byways, forming a one-day drive from Boise. It can be accessed either by the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway on Idaho 21 or by the Payette River Scenic Byway on Idaho 55. Either route connects with this 33-mile trip through some of the most powerful canyon scenery offered in the state. A one day trip from Boise affords visitors a glimpse of the pioneering spirit of early Idaho and the awesome beauty of Idaho's wildlife and whitewater.



Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway



Location

The route travels along the Banks-Lowman road. It can be accessed either at Banks along Idaho 55 or at Lowman along Idaho 21. Either point of access brings the traveler back to a route leading to Boise.

Length

33 miles. Allow one hour. Allow 3 hours for the loop from Boise and back.

Roadway

This is a two-lane roadway with no passing lanes, but there are several turnouts for scenic viewing. The paved roadway is maintained year around, but often has a snow floor during winter months.

When to see it

There are year-round opportunities for wildlife viewing with exceptional elk viewing in winter and spring. In summer months this stretch of river is world renowned for rafting and kayaking.

Special Attractions

The winter range for elk is located within a five-mile section in the middle of the route near the Danskin river-access point. Visitors are treated to large herds along this area during winter and spring months. The migratory and nesting route for Canada Geese is located here also. The South Fork of the Payette River offers world-class rafting and kayaking. Visitors are treated to the acrobatics of kayakers in class IV conditions along several points of the river. Commercial rafting companies offer trips down the river.

Camping

Hot Springs Campground, Pine Flats Campground, RV parks in Crouch and Garden Valley.

Whom to call

Boise National Forest Garden Valley Ranger Station: (208) 462-3241; Garden Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 462-5003, www.gvchamber.org, gvchamber@gvchamber.org



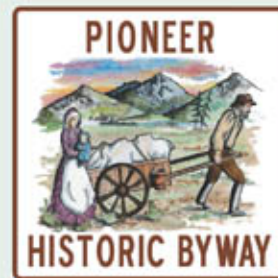
Photo by Kirk Anderson © istockphoto.com

Pioneer Historic Byway

On this route, travelers can retrace some steps of Idaho's early pioneers and follow the historic path taken by early-day Yellowstone Park visitors. From Franklin, Idaho's oldest settlement, this byway heads north to Soda Springs and on to the Wyoming border. This route offers the shortest distance and time between Salt Lake City and Yellowstone Park.

Along the way you can see the remnants of the first grist mill in Idaho, one of the original Yellowstone Highway markers, the 100+ year old Mormon Oneida Academy, the site of the massacre at Bear River, Devil's Hand, the Niter Ice Cave, Last Chance Canal, cinder cones from extinct volcanoes, a section of the Oregon-California Trail, and many other historical points of interest, documenting early settlement in this portion of Idaho.

Soda Springs offers numerous opportunities for visitors. Among a variety of historic attractions, the town features the world's only captive geyser, with a plume of almost 100 feet. In addition, the nearby Formation Springs Nature Conservancy Area contains a travertine-formed cave and excellent waterfowl and wildlife viewing.



Location

Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 91, then Idaho 34, north to U.S. 30 and then east to Soda Springs where it meets the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway. From there, north on Idaho 34 toward the Wyoming state line.

Length

127 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway

U.S. 91 is a two-lane road with some passing lanes. Idaho 34 is a two-lane road with one moderately steep grade between Wayan and the Wyoming border. This is a heavy snowfall area with most winter travel being made on a snow floor. The section of Idaho 34 between Soda Springs and the Wyoming border may occasionally be closed in the winter.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Bear River Massacre Site; Red Rock Pass; Niter Ice Cave; Black Canyon; Last Chance Canal; the world's only captive geyser in Soda Springs; Chesterfield townsite.

Camping

Several in the Caribou National Forest.

Services

Full services in Preston, Grace, Soda Springs; partial services in Franklin.

Whom to call

Preston Chamber of Commerce: (208) 852-2703 or (888) 201-1063, www.seidaho.org; pace@idaho.net; Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce: (888) 399-0888, sodacoc@sodachamber.com; Soda Springs Ranger District: 547-4356; Pioneer Travel Council: (800) 423-8597

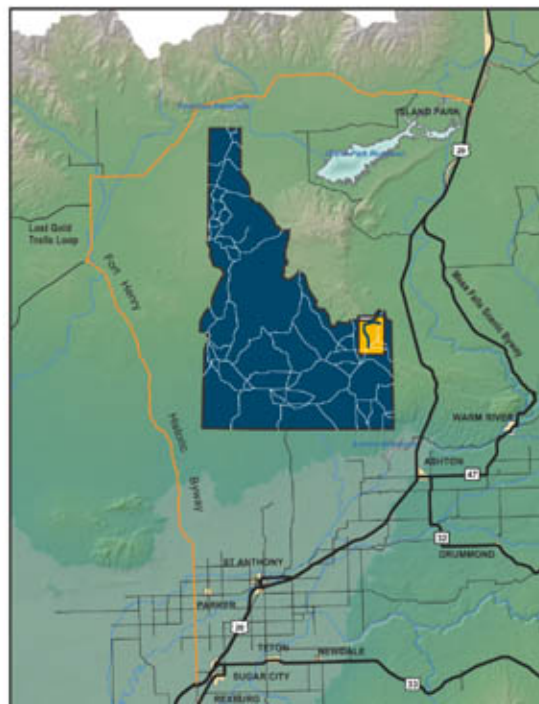


Fort Henry Historic Byway

See the first white settlement marked by the Fort Henry Monument, from which this byway gets its name. A new monument now replaces the old one at the original site. The old monument relocated in an adjoining field can be viewed from the original site. This route trails along BLM land, desert and mountain ranges; where herds of deer and elk, as well as Sharp Tail and Sage Grouse can be seen as you journey along the Red Road.

This byway crosses Camas Creek, connects to County Road A-2 in Clark County at the "Y." Sand Hill Cranes are early spring visitors in the Camas Meadows. Luscious mountain streams are enticing for fisherman, hikers, bikers and campers. Beautiful fields of wild flowers include seasonal Camas which can be seen throughout the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and flat lands.

The heritage of Clark and Fremont counties is very unique and full of early history of mountain men, Indians, including Camas Meadows Battle Grounds, Nez Perce Trails, miners, stage coach lines and early day ranching.



Fort Henry Historic Byway



Location

Begins at North Rexburg U.S. 20 Exit, onto Salem Highway, to St. Anthony Sand Dunes on Red Road and on to A-2 Road Junction. Continue on A-2 north, then east to Island Park and U.S. 20.

Length

81 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane road, no mountain passes. North Rexburg exit to A-2 in Clark County to Kilgore Store exit paved. Only gravel road includes eleven miles Kilgore to Fremont County line, then paved to U.S. 20.

When to see it

Mid-April to Mid-November. In winter roads become snowmobile trails. Year around County A-2 open to U.S. 20 and Rexburg Exit to St. Anthony Sand Dunes.

Special attractions

Henry's Fork of the Snake River; Fort Henry Monument; St. Anthony Sand Dunes; Civil Defense Cave; wild game areas; historical ranches; old Idmon town site; Camas Meadows Battle Grounds; Targhee-Caribou National Forest. Ask about summer/winter sports attractions throughout these areas.

Camping

Campsites at St. Anthony Sand Dunes exit, Kilgore Store town site, Jacobs Island Park Ranch, all privately owned.

Services

Full services: Rexburg, Parker, St. Anthony, and all communities on U.S. 20; partial services Kilgore Store (no gas).

Whom to call

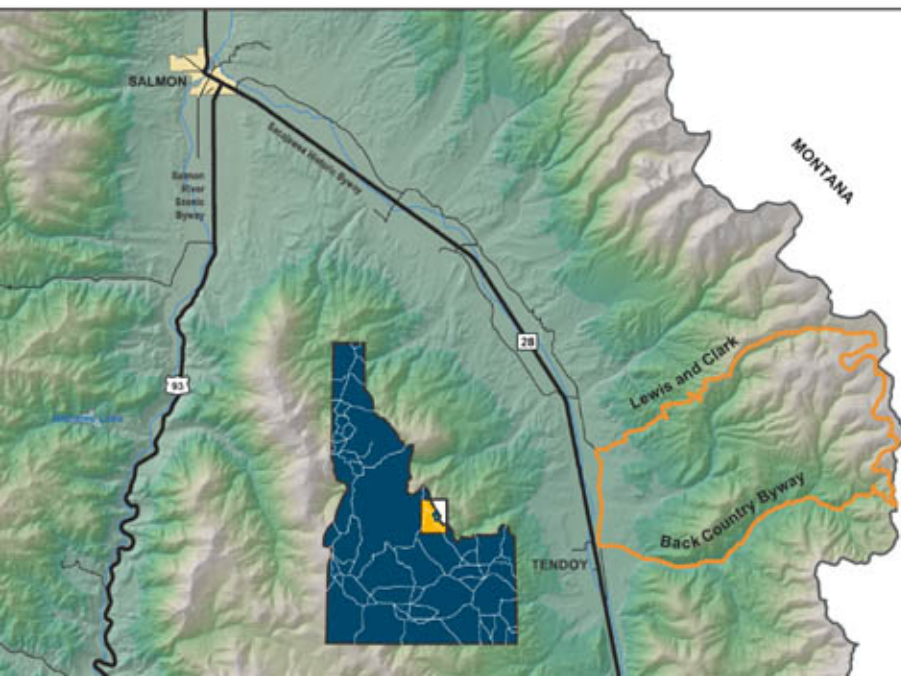
Ashton Ranger District (208) 652-7442; St. Anthony Visitor Center (208) 624-4870; St. Anthony City Offices (208) 624-3494; Island Park Ranger District (208) 558-7301; St. Anthony Courthouse (208) 624-7332.



Photo by Glenn Oakley © IdahoScenic.com

Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway

This byway winds its way through country that in many places looks the same as it did when Lewis and Clark passed through in 1805: stands of fir and pine trees, high-mountain meadows and rolling hills.



Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway

Location

The byway is located 20 miles southeast of Salmon off of Idaho 28. Turn east from Idaho 28 at the Tendoy store.

Length

39 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway

Roads are mostly single lane with gravel surface and occasional turnouts.

When to see it

Snow usually closes the roads from November until June. Summer and early fall are the best times of the year to make the journey. Beware of muddy roads in late spring and early summer. The route is groomed in the winter months and is popular with snowmobilers.

Special attractions

Back Country Interpretive Kiosk; Sharkey Hot Springs; Lemhi Pass where the Lewis and Clark expedition first crossed the Continental Divide going west; 1st Flag Unfurling Site; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Camping

BLM Agency Creek recreation site at Milepost 33: Tent and trailer campsites, toilets, no potable water available.

Services

Full services in Salmon; partial services in Tendoy, Lemhi and Leadore. To the south, the nearest full-service community is Idaho Falls, 140 miles away.

Whom to call

The Bureau of Land Management's Salmon Field Office: (208) 756-5400; Salmon-Challis National Forest: (208) 756-5100; Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 756-2100.



Lost Gold Trails Loop



Location

Begins on A-2 at the "Y" Junction, west of Dubois, routing to Old Highway 91 north of Dubois, to Spencer, and then trailing east on Spencer/Idmon road connecting to A-2 and the Fort Henry Historic Byway.

Length

47.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway

Two-lane roadway, no mountain passes. "Y" on A-2 to Dubois and Old Highway 91 Dubois to Spencer paved. Spencer/Idmon 3 miles paved, 11 miles gravel.

When to see it

Dubois to Spencer open year around. Highway A-2 "Y" to Dubois and Spencer/Idmon road closed through winter. Closed roads in winter become snowmobile trails.

Special attractions

Heritage Hall, Civil Defense Cave, Historic Dubois Hotel, U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Medicine Lodge travertine mines, Wood Live Stock Rock House, Beaver Canyon, Nez Perce Trail, Spencer opal shops and mines.

Camping

Stoddard Forest Service Campground, Stoddard Campground, Steel Creek campground (minimum facilities).

Services

Full services in Dubois. Partial services in Spencer.

Whom to call

City of Dubois: (208) 374-5241; Clark County Courthouse: (208) 374-5304; Dubois Ranger District: (208) 374-5422; Byway Information: (208) 374-5330.

Lost Gold Trails Loop

The Lost Gold Trails Loop ventures off the Fort Henry Historic Byway at the "Y" Junction onto County Road A-2. The loop then travels southwest along the desert-lava rolling hill terrain where cattle and wild game peacefully share spring and fall months grazing. Crossing the railroad, which originated the town of "Dry Creek," now Dubois, and traveling west through town over I-15 overpass on Idaho 22, you connect with Old Highway 91. Turn north on Old Highway 91 and head to Spencer, passing near the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. This early-day Gold Trail closely follows Beaver Creek towards the Montana gold mines. At Spencer the Gold Trail of yesterday becomes the Opal Trails of today and passes several high grade Opal Shops within the original Wood Live Stock town site. Leaving Spencer, the trail heads east to Idmon. This early day Nez Perce Trail has spurs off of its main roadway to private opal mines, Caribou-Targhee Forest fishing and primitive camping areas, and an old cemetery, connecting again to the Fort Henry Historic Byway at the old Idmon town site.





Location

The southern end is at Idaho 47 in Ashton, northeast 12.4 miles to the old Bear Gulch Ski Area site, then northwest along Forest Service Route 294 to the northern end at U.S. 20.

Length

28.7 miles. Allow 1 hour.

Roadway

Idaho 47 is a two-lane road. Forest Service Route 294 is closed in winter and becomes a Forest Service snowmobile route.

When to see it

In the winter the Forest Service road becomes one of many snowmobile trails in the area. If you have a snowmobile or cross-country skis, winter is the time to go; if you don't, there is no access. Spring through fall is great by car.

Special attractions

Upper Mesa Falls; Lower Mesa Falls; Harriman State Park on U.S. 20; many trails for bikes, horses, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles.

Camping

The Warm River Forest Service Campground is approximately 9 miles east of Ashton on the Warm River. The Grand View Forest Service Campground is located at the Lower Mesa Falls turnout.

Services

Full services in Ashton.

Whom to call

Ashton Ranger District: (208) 652-7442; Island Park Ranger District: (208) 558-7301; Ashton Chamber of Commerce: (208) 652-3987; Targhee National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/tn/mesafalls/welcome.htm

Mesa Falls Scenic Byway

The Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins where the Teton Scenic Byway reaches its northern end in Ashton, at the junction of U.S. 20 and Idaho 47. From there, the route travels through the town of Warm River toward its main attractions: the Upper and Lower Mesa Falls.

The Mesa Falls are the only major falls in Idaho not used for irrigation or hydroelectric projects, and as such maintain a look and feel of nature undisturbed. At 110 feet and 85 feet, respectively, the Upper and Lower Mesa Falls offer equally spectacular views in a beautiful forest setting. Both falls can be viewed in full, with the area surrounding the upper waterfall enhanced with paths and viewing areas that make it easily accessible to all. Though only about an hour's driving time, the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway is often a half-day's journey, with travelers mesmerized by the spectacular display in the midst of a truly back-country setting. In addition, the historic Mesa Falls Lodge has been restored to its original splendor and is now open seasonally for visitor information.





Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway

Bear Lake straddles the Idaho-Utah border and boasts sandy beaches, great water sports, fishing, boating, and the famous Bear Lake State Park. This byway follows Bear Lake north on U.S. 89 to Montpelier, then north on U.S. 30, where you leave the Cache National Forest and enter the Caribou National Forest.

The intersection of U.S. 89 and U.S. 30 at Montpelier is the site of the attractive National Oregon-California Trail Center dedicated to the history and scenic wonders of the 2,000-mile Oregon-California Trail, part of the largest voluntary migration ever.

There, you can ride in computer-controlled covered wagons, journey nearby trails with experienced guides in period costume, and handle the tools and other artifacts used by the pioneers. There is also an expansive park and playground to stretch your legs, as well as a general store and gift shop to help you remember your visit.

There are 13 Oregon-California Trail sites identified in the Soda Springs area. These sites are documented in diaries of the emigrants, in military records, by early mountain men, and settlers. "Travel the Oregon Trail in Caribou County" brochure contains information and directions on each site. The Mormon ghost town of Chesterfield lies 25 miles northwest of Soda Springs and is located right on the Oregon-California Trail.



Location

Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 89 north to U.S. 30, then north and west to Soda Springs, where it meets the Pioneer Historic Byway.

Length

54 miles. Allow 1 hour.

Roadway

This section of U.S. 89 is a two-lane road. It can receive heavy snowfall in winter. This section of U.S. 30 is a two-lane road with passing lanes and one short, 5 to 6 percent grade at Georgetown Summit.

When to see it

Year around.

Special attractions

Bear Lake; Bear Lake State Park; Paris Museum; Minnetonka Cave; Caribou National Forest; Oregon Trail; National Oregon-California Trail Center in Montpelier; captive geyser in Soda Springs.

Camping

Several areas in Caribou National Forest, Bear Lake State Park, Montpelier Canyon.

Services

Full services in Montpelier, Soda Springs; partial services in Paris, Georgetown.

Whom to call:

Bear Lake State Park: (208) 945-2790; Bear Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau: (800) 448-2327, judy@dcdi.net; Montpelier Ranger District: (208) 847-0375; Soda Springs Ranger District: (208) 547-4356; The National Oregon-California Trail Center (Montpelier): (866) 847-3800, www.oregontrailcenter.org and www.fs.fed.us/r4/curlaw; Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce: (888) 399-0888, sodacoc@sodachamber.com



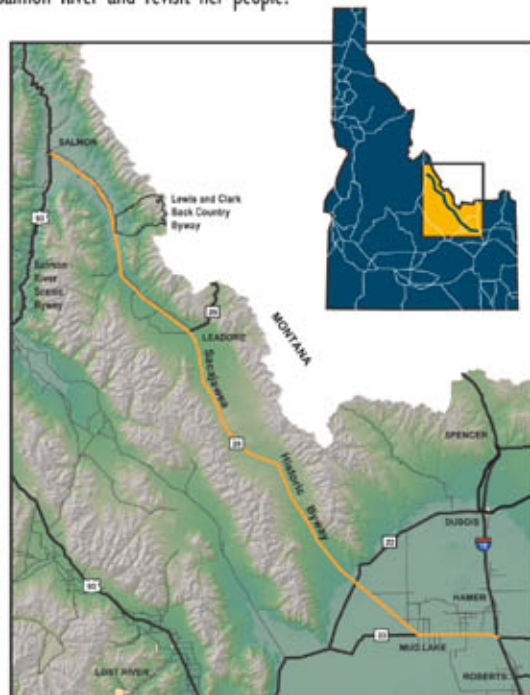
Sculpture by Agnes Vincen Talbot

Photo by Ann Marie Opala ©

Sacajawea Historic Byway

Sacajawea, an "Agaidika" Shoshone woman born around 1788, is known around the world as a trusted and valuable member of the famed Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. A lesser-known fact, however, is her historical tie to Idaho's Lemhi Valley where she was born and raised until the age of twelve. Captured by the Arikira Indians and forced to live among them in the Mandan Villages of North Dakota, Sacajawea would not see her home again until becoming part of the Corps of Discovery in 1805. It was during this expedition that she would help Lewis and Clark find the Salmon River and revisit her people.

This passage through the high country of eastern Idaho offers a wealth of engaging stories, many of them considered historical legacies of Idaho and beyond. Found here are fossils of the extinct North American (or Pleistocene) lion, Native American rock art, the compelling stories of the Lemhi-Shoshone people, the Lewis and Clark expedition's passage through Sacajawea's homeland, the flight of the Nez Perce, the Reverend Samuel Parker, Fort Lemhi, the legacy of Chief Tendoy, stage routes and rail lines that served the mining boom of the late 1800's, and much more. Come discover for yourself what makes Sacajawea Historic Byway such a legacy.



Sacajawea Historic Byway

Location

Begins at the intersection of Interstate 15 & Idaho 33 at Exit 143, follows Idaho 33 about 12 miles west to its junction with Idaho 28, and follows Idaho 28 northwest for 120 miles to Salmon, Idaho.

Length

132 miles. About 2.5 hours.

Roadway

Idaho 33 is a straight and flat road. Speed is limited through the towns of Terreton and Mud Lake. Idaho 28 is mostly straight, with some hills as you gradually make your way over Gilmore Summit, a low mountain pass at 7,186 feet. Watch for icy conditions and snow drifts in winter. Both are two lane roads, with areas for passing.

When to see it

Year around. Summer months afford easier travel, while spectacular autumn colors are best viewed late September through October.

Special attractions

Idaho 28 parallels the Continental Divide for almost 100 miles. Other attractions: Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area, Prehistoric Man, Charcoal Kilns, Meadow Lake, Leadore Ranger Station/Visitor Center, Sacajawea Interpretive Center, Lemhi County Historical Museum.

Camping

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area (Fish & Game), Birch Creek Campground (BLM), Kaufman Campground (BLM), Lone Pine, Smokey Cubs Campground (USFS), Leadore, Meadow Lake Campground (USFS), McFarland Campground (BLM), Salmon.

Services

Partial services in Terreton, Mud Lake, Lone Pine, Leadore, Lemhi and Tendoy. Full services in Salmon.

Whom to call

Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (800) 727-2540, www.salmonbyway.com; USFS Leadore Ranger District: (208) 768-2516; Bureau of Land Management, Public Lands Office, Salmon: (208) 756-5400; Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area: (208) 663-4664; Lemhi County Historical Museum: (208) 756-3342; Lone Pine Cafe: (208) 589-6507; Lemhi Mercantile: (208) 768-2680; Tendoy Store: (208) 756-3504.



Photo by Glenn Oakley © IdahoScenicImages.com

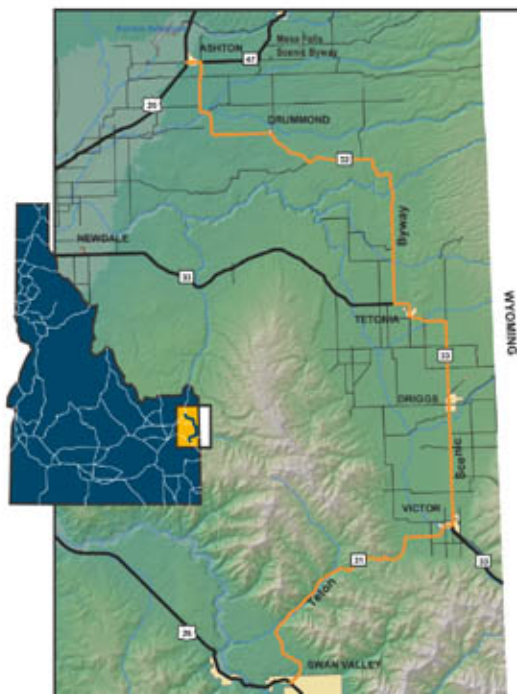
Teton Scenic Byway

The jagged teeth of the Teton Mountain Range are actually in Wyoming, but Idahoans prefer “the quiet side” on the western slopes, along the Teton Scenic Byway.

At nearly 10 million years young, the Tetons are the newest mountains in the Rockies. In fact, they continue to grow today at the snail-like pace of about an inch every hundred years. In fact, the largest peak on the range, Grand Teton, now stands at 13,772 feet.

Beginning at Swan Valley, this byway travels east on Idaho 31 through the beautiful Pine Creek pass to the town of Victor, and then north on Idaho 33, along the western side of the Teton Range. The mountains sharply contrast with the rolling agricultural fields to the north and west. In the towns of the Teton Valley, Victor, Driggs, and Teton, travelers can enjoy small town hospitality, internationally famous resorts and festival events held throughout the year.

West of Teton, the byway turns north on Idaho 32, offering glimpses of the Tetons and the Falls River until it reaches Ashton, where the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins.



Location

Begins on Idaho 31 at Swan Valley northeast to Idaho 33 at Victor, then north on Idaho 33 to Idaho 32, north on Idaho 32 to Idaho 47, and west on Idaho 47 to U.S. 20 at Ashton.

Length

68.9 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway

Pine Creek Pass has a two lane roadway with no passing lanes. It has 6-percent grades, some 35-mph curves, and often has a snow floor in winter. Idaho 33 is a two lane roadway with ample passing opportunities.

When to see it

Year around, but fall foliage is spectacular as are the wildflowers of late spring.

Special attractions

Great views of the Teton Mountains; Targhee National Forest; unlimited recreational activities; State Historic Markers; trails and pathways; Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort near Driggs.

Camping

Numerous Forest Service and private campgrounds available throughout Teton Valley.

Services

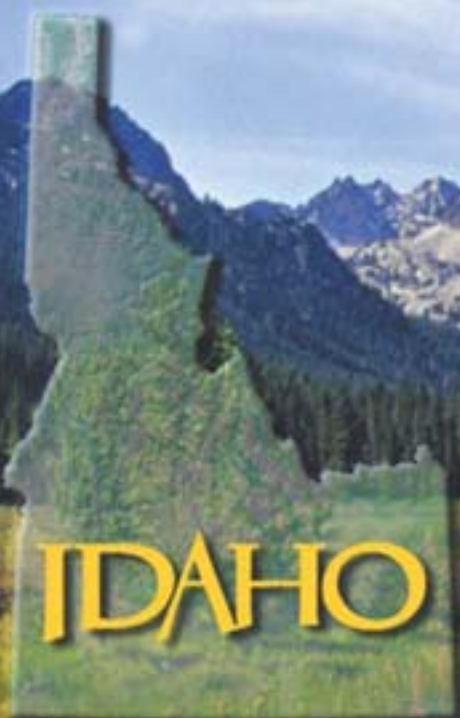
Full services in Swan Valley, Victor, Driggs, Teton, Ashton.

Whom to call

Palisades Ranger District: (208) 523-1412; Ashton Chamber of Commerce: (208) 652-3987; Teton Basin Ranger District: (208) 354-2312; Yellowstone Teton Territory: (800) 634-3246, ifcofc@ida.net, www.yellowstoneteton.org; Targhee National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/tnfi/; Teton Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 354-2500, www.tetonvalleychamber.com

Photo by Glenn Oakley © IdahoStockImages.com

Taking the Scenic Route



Contributors:

Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Highway Administration
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho Transportation Department
North Central Idaho Travel Association
North Idaho Tourism Alliance
Pioneer Country Travel
South Central Idaho Tourism
& Recreation Development Association
Southwest Idaho Travel Association
U.S. Forest Service
Yellowstone Teton Territory

A guide to Idaho's
scenic byways